

**FIFTY-FIFTH  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE**

**SAN FRANCISCO  
1910**

**MECHANICS' INSTITUTE**  
**Library and Reading and Chess Room**  
**99 Grove Street, corner of Polk Street**  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.**

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The Mechanics'-Mercantile Library was re-established at the above address shortly after the general conflagration of 1906—it now contains over 30,000 volumes and is being rapidly increased.

It is the purpose of the management to bring the Library to its former efficiency as soon as possible.

The Reading Room list of periodicals embraces the titles of over 500 newspapers, magazines, reviews and journals.

Members may withdraw two books at a time and extra books on payment of five cents each.

Books (except new fiction) may be retained for two weeks and then renewed for two weeks longer.

New fiction may be kept one week and is not renewable.

The new Mechanics' Institute Building is now in course of erection on the site of the former building, on Post street, east of Kearny street.

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**TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP.**

Entrance Fee.....	\$ 1.00
Quarterly Dues (in advance).....	1.50
Life Membership.....	50.00

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Library open, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m.

Sundays and Holidays, 11 a. m. to 5 p. m.

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 1910

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SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.  
1910



MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BUILDING, IN COURSE OF ERECTION ON SITE  
OF FORMER BUILDING, SOUTH SIDE OF POST STREET, BETWEEN  
MONTGOMERY AND KEARNY STREETS.

The Mechanics'-Mercantile Library will occupy the second and third floors. The six upper floors are divided into offices and the ground floor into stores. It is expected that this building will be completed in June, 1910.

## OFFICERS

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### BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Year ending February 28, 1910.

RUDOLPH J. TAUSSIG.....	President
LIVINGSTON JENKS.....	Vice-President
JAMES G. SPAULDING.....	Recording Secretary
JAMES H. LYONS.....	Corresponding Secretary
GEORGE BEANSTON	J. J. DOLAN
TIREY L. FORD	E. P. HEALD
BYRON MAUZY	ROBERT W. NEAL
DR. A. W. SCOTT	JAMES SPIERS
OTTO von GELDERN	LUTHER WAGONER
JOSEPH M. CUMMING.....	Secretary
Mechanics'-Mercantile Library	
F. B. GRAVES.....	Librarian

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 10, 1910.

*To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute:*

The year just passed has been a busy one in the history of the Mechanics' Institute, though but little of the activity of your Board of Trustees has been manifest to the members directly.

Most of our energies have been directed toward the new building on Post street. After authority had been granted by the Institute, your Board of Trustees negotiated a loan with the German Savings and Loan Society for the sum of \$300,000 or as much of that sum as would be needed to complete the building. Mr. Albert Pissis was engaged as architect to draw plans and specifications and superintend construction.

Satisfactory plans having been submitted, bids were advertised for, and the Lewis A. Hicks Co. being the lowest bidders, the contract was awarded to them for the sum of \$241,000.

Work has progressed satisfactorily and the building will soon be completed. The ground floor is devoted to stores from which we hope to get a good rental. The next floor will be occupied by the main library and will contain the librarian's office, stacks for books for general circulation, and the main reading room. The floor above will also be for the library and will contain the reference library, chess room, the Secretary's office and the Board room. Every effort has been made to make the library rooms comfortable and attractive and adapted to the use for which they are intended. The architect kept it well in mind and has made the two floors a home for books and book-lovers. Owing to the delay in getting the proper fittings the library rooms will hardly be completed until June, and by that time it is hoped that the Mechanics' Mercantile Library will be installed in the Post street building and that the Institute will again become prosperous and flourishing. It is expected that a large sum of money will be appro-

priated for the purchase of new books in all branches, and it is also expected that our members will make an effort to build up our membership, as we will have the place and the books for their accommodation. The location is still an ideal one for our purpose, no effort has been spared to make the library rooms what they should be in every way and increased membership will aid us in building up the library itself and enlarging its usefulness.

There is no doubt that a great many would join the Mechanics' Institute if they were but asked to do so, as they not only derive the benefits of membership for themselves, but are at the same time aiding in a great educational work which benefits the entire community.

Your assistance is earnestly solicited to increase the membership.

The six floors above those devoted to the library have been divided into handsome, light and airy offices, and the work of renting them has begun. Some tenants have already been secured and more are considering the matter. In this also we ask the good offices of our members to aid us.

During the year we were favored by a very interesting course of lectures upon the "Backgrounds of English Literature" by Professor Wm. D. Armes. The lectures were well attended and successful. An additional lecture course by a well known professor from the East had been planned, but owing to other arrangements the course had to be postponed.

During the year just passed quite a little activity was manifested among the chess and checker players. A new departure was made by opening one of the contests to non-members, and thus far we have had no reason to regret our action. The tournaments were successful and new interest was added to the contests. The Board has just voted the establishment of a committee which will have the chess room in special charge, and the activity of that committee is looked forward to, to aid the development of that branch of the Mechanics' Institute.

You are already aware that the Pavilion Block has been leased for a term of years upon what we considered advantageous terms.

It might be worthy of note that the Mechanics' Institute was one of the first organizations in this city which indorsed the Panama-Pacific Exposition.

Its connection with fairs of years gone by may make it of some service to the World's Exposition proposed for the year 1915.

With the exception of a very trifling sum all our insurance claims for the fire of April 18, 1906, have been settled, and it speaks well for the conservative action of your Board that we collected 86½ per cent of our claims.

The Secretary's statement shows a balance of cash on hand on March 1, 1910, of \$45,946.86. Most of this amount is at present bearing interest and will be used for furnishing the library and covering the deficit which is expected during the coming fiscal year.

This fund was maintained separately from the loan account, as the constitution of our Institute made this method of financing necessary.

For details concerning the library work, I refer you to the Librarian's report.

In closing I wish to thank the members for the cordial support so generously extended to your Board of Directors, and to assure you that it has helped to make our work comparatively easy.

Some knotty problems were presented to us for solution, but the assurance of your support on the one hand and our interest in the general welfare of our city as represented by the Mechanics' Institute and what it stands for on the other hand, have made us rather seek the task than avoid it. We find our compensation in your satisfaction and in the success of the Mechanics' Institute.

RUDOLPH J. TAUSSIG, *President.*

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1, 1910.

### *Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute:*

Gentlemen—I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute of the year ending February 28, 1910.

March 1, 1909—Casa on deposit in various banks.....\$ 31,931.77

### RECEIPTS

Insurance Claims collected.....	\$5,020.88
Interest .....	1,652.98
Rents .....	24,281.38
Refund of advance on building account.....	250.00
Sundry Receipts .....	86.70
Drawn from German Savings and Loan Society for New Building Payments.....	168,363.05

### From Institute Members

Dues .....	\$9,844.50
Entrance Fees .....	273.00
Life Members .....	100.00
Books Lost and Paid for.....	33.60
Fines .....	397.85
Extra Books .....	495.25
Lectures (including sales to non-members) .....	281.00
	11,425.20
	211,080.19
	\$ 243,011.96

### EXPENDITURES

Advertising.....	\$ 20.25
Books, Binding and Periodicals.....	5,411.84
Expense—Janitor's supplies, telephone, repairs cartage, hardware, towel service, advance on building account, etc.....	1,226.51
Fuel .....	179.75
Insurance Premiums .....	1,030.00
Insurance claims, expense of collecting.....	447.73
Interest, allowed on advance payment on Pa- vilion Block lease.....	358.81
Lectures—Fees, hall rent, printing, etc.....	535.00

Legal Expense .....	1,185.00
Light .....	749.23
Pavilion Block Improvements, repairing roof..	175.00
Post Street Building, payments on new building .....	168,363.05
Printing, Stationery and Postage.....	886.36
Salaries .....	10,170.00
Taxes .....	6,231.80
Water.....	94.77
	<hr/>
	197,065.10
1910—March 1, Cash on Deposit in various banks.....	\$ 45,946.86
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## INSURANCE CLAIMS

The total insurance carried at the time of the fire, April 18, 1906, was .....	\$ 129,995.00
There was collected up to March 1, 1909.....	\$ 107,435.23
During the past year the suit against the Williamsburg City Insurance Co. was settled by payment in full and \$814.19 interest and costs .....	4,814.19
Other receipts from claims were.....	206.69
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Total collected since the fire.....	\$ 112,456.11

With the exception of a scrip certificate of the American Insurance Co. of Philadelphia on which there is an unpaid amount of \$85.03 all insurance claims are settled.

The following are total amounts expended since April 18, 1906, for—	
Books, Binding and Periodicals.....	\$ 44,734.39
Furniture and Shelving.....	5,377.11
Present Library Building.....	6,820.32

## Insurance is carried as follows:

Books .....	\$ 17,000.00
Furniture .....	2,000.00
Present Library Building .....	2,000.00
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	\$ 21,000.00

## LOAN ACCOUNT

During the year the Post Street Lot and part of the Pavilion Block were mortgaged to the German Savings and Loan Society

for \$300,000 to pay for the new building now in course of erection on Post Street Lot. The money is drawn as needed to pay bills for erection of building and interest is paid on money as drawn. On February 28, 1910, the amount owing for money drawn was \$168,363.05.

The Real Estate owned is as follows:—

Block bounded by Larkin, Grove, Polk and Hayes Streets, on which present Library building is situated (leased to Land Title Co.). Post Street Lot (new building in course of erection). Lots 339 and 340 Precita Valley Lands (leased to Krieg Tanning Co.).

Seven lots in People's Homestead, Tract A (vacant).

Aside from the mortgage to pay for new building (see Loan Account above) there is no incumbrance on any of the property and the Institute has no debts except for current bills.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH M. CUMMING,  
*Secretary Mechanics' Institute.*

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1, 1910.

To the President and Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute.

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration the fifty-fifth annual report of the Library for the year ending February 28, 1910.

The most important work of the year has been the preparation of plans for the arrangement and equipment of the library quarters in the new building.

The Mechanics' Mercantile Library will occupy the second and third floors of the new building and in addition will have ample space in the basement for storage purposes. On the main floor of the Library will be located the Librarian's office, the charging desk and the catalogue department. In the main room will be placed the works of fiction, travel, biography, history and other works of general interest.

On the third floor the reference and technical books as well as the current and bound periodicals are to be placed. The chess room and the offices of the Board of Trustees and Secretary of the Mechanics' Institute are also to be on this floor.

The installation of the Library into its new quarters, equipped with modern steel book cases and shelving having an estimated capacity for more than 60,000 volumes, ample space for reading and study tables and other conveniences, an increased membership and a greater income will mark another step in the advancement of the Mechanics' Institute.

### MEMBERSHIP.

During the past year two life members and 273 subscribing members have joined the library and 325 have withdrawn; in addition 268 were dropped for non-payment of dues.

The following were elected as honorary members during the year: Mr. David Kerr and Prof. Henry Morse Stephens.

Prof. W. B. Rising of the University of California, an honorary member of the Mechanics' Institute for many years, died in February of this year.

I have also to report the death of the following life members of the Institute: Mr. Loren Alexander, Mrs. Sarah Beers, Mr. Henry J. Booth, Mr. Edward Browning, Mr. Jacob Browning, Mr. Wm. Emmette Coleman, Mr. Arthur Cornwall, Mr. Henry L. Davis, Mr. Wm. Morris, Mrs. F. H. Porter, Mr. M. Rehfisch, Mr. J. B. Stetson and Mr. Lovell White.

Mr. H. J. Booth was President of the Institute in 1866, Mr. Jacob Browning was a Trustee in 1868-69, Mr. H. L. Davis was a Trustee and the Treasurer from 1868 to 1878, and Mr. J. B. Stetson was a Trustee in 1875-77.

While the membership at this time is smaller than it has been for some years, it is due, without doubt, to the inconvenient location of the Library, especially so since the shopping district is now down town.

Many inquiries are being made by members and non-members about the time the Library will be in its new building and we feel sure that when we are settled in the new quarters the membership will be increased to its old standard.

Membership, March 1, 1909.....	2,680
New Members, Life.....	2
New Members, Subscription.....	273
	2,955
Withdrawn and Suspended.....	593
Membership, February 28, 1910.....	2,362

The membership is divided as follows:

Honorary Members.....	10
Life .....	635
Subscribing.....	1,717
	2,362

### BOOKS.

The accessions of books for the year have been 3,914 volumes, classified as follows:

General works .....	239
Philosophy .....	32
Religion .....	60
Sociology .....	548
Science .....	154
Useful Arts .....	1,140
Fine Arts .....	111
Literature .....	196
Travel .....	121
Biography .....	110
History .....	159
Fiction .....	1,044
	3,914

These were acquired by—

Purchase .....	2,045
Gift .....	1,344
Binding .....	524
Exchange .....	1
	3,914

Number of volumes reported Feb. 28, 1909..	28,324
Accessions, March 1, 1909, to	
Feb. 28, 1910 .....	3,914
Less lost and paid for.....	27
Lost by removal of members.....	22
Dup. ret'd to Gov't.....	3
	— 52
Net Gain .....	— 3,862
Present Number in Library.....	32,186
(This includes volumes which have not been entered.)	

## CIRCULATION.

There were issued for home use 71,741 volumes, an average of 5,978 volumes per month. The following table gives the statistics of circulation by classes:

General works .....	11
Philosophy .....	833
Religion .....	269
Sociology .....	789
Science .....	527
Useful Arts .....	1,836
Fine Arts .....	1,066
Music .....	293
Literature .....	2,811
German .....	1,373
French .....	736
Travel .....	1,651
Biography .....	1,403
History .....	1,270
Fiction .....	54,507
Children's Books .....	1,099
Periodicals .....	1,267
Non-fiction .....	16,135 vols. .225 per cent
Fiction and Juveniles....	55,606 vols. .775 per cent
	— 71,741      — 1,000

## ATTENDANCE.

The Library was open during the year 363 days. The only record of attendance that is kept is for Sundays and holidays (excepting Christmas and the Fourth of July, when the Library is closed).

The total attendance for fifty-two Sundays and eight holidays was 5,875, an average daily attendance of ninety-seven.

## LECTURES.

The lecture course during the year was on the "Backgrounds of English Literature," by Prof. William Dallam Armes of the University of California. The course included six lectures, each one of which was illustrated by from fifty to seventy-five lantern slides.

## RECEIPTS.

The receipts of this department for the year have been as follows:

From Membership Fees.....	\$ 273.00
Life Memberships .....	100.00
Dues .....	9,844.50
Books and Magazines paid for.....	33.60
Fines .....	397.85
Extra Books .....	495.25
Lecture Tickets .....	209.75
Total .....	\$11,353.95

Respectfully submitted,

F. B. GRAVES,  
*Librarian.*

## GIFTS.

Books donated March 1909-February 1910.

Donors.	No. of Vols.
American Institute of Architects.....	1
American Institute of Electrical Engineers..	2
Anonymous .....	6
Architectural Record Co., N. Y.....	1
Atherton, Gertrude .....	3
Bancroft, Mrs. H. H.....	2
Bethlehem Steel Co.....	1
Boye, Bertha M.....	1
Bradbury, A. W.....	1
Bradford, Gamaliel .....	2
California—Insurance Commissioner.....	1
California—Secretary of State.....	1
California—State Library .....	3
California—State Mineralogist .....	10
California Bankers' Ass'n.....	1
Capelle, Robert .....	1
Carson, Mrs. Edwin.....	1
Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce .....	1
Cochrane Pub. Co., N. Y.....	1
Colburn, Mrs. F. H.....	1
Commonwealth of Australia.....	1
Cornwall, Bruce .....	4
Davis, M. Evalyn.....	1
Densmore, Emmet, M. D.....	2
Duncan, Mrs. W. L.....	2
Dunham, Carrigan & Hayden Co.....	1
Dunn, Horace D.....	2
Ehrhorn, Edw. M. ....	22
Fichtenmüller, A. M.....	2
Foote Mineral Co.....	1
General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen, New York City.....	2
Graves, F. B.....	7
Griswold, Stephen M., Brooklyn, N. Y.....	1
Hallidie, Mrs. Martha C.....	35
Harvard University Library.....	1
Hayes, Hon. E. A.....	2
Hecht, Mrs. H.....	2
Hobe, Miss S.....	3
Howitt, Rev. H.....	1
Hungerford, A. N.....	1
Illinois Geological Survey.....	2
Iowa Masonic Library (Cedar Rapids).....	5
Iowa State Library.....	1
Iron Age .....	1
Jordan, Rudolf, Jr.....	1
Langguth, Theo. .....	1
Lawson, F. M.....	1

## GIFTS—(Continued).

Donors.	No. of Vols.
Leland Stanford, Jr., University.....	1
Lewis, Nelson P.,.....	1
Lunkenheimer Company, S. F.....	1
Martin, H. M.....	1
Martin, John .....	1
Massachusetts—Board of Education.....	1
Master Car Builders' Ass'n.....	1
Merchants' Ass'n, S. F.....	1
Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board (Boston) .....	1
Meyer, Moritz .....	2
Moon, Jas. H.....	1
Morrow, Judge W. W.....	874
Mullaney, Thos. ....	1
New York State Board of Charities.....	5
New York—State Library.....	1
New Zealand—Registrar General.....	2
Pacific Coast Gas Association.....	3
Perkins, Hon. Geo. C .....	2
Phillips, L. E.....	1
Princeton University .....	1
Raymon, George Lansing.....	9
Registrar General of Western Australia....	3
Reid, Henry H.....	1
Root, Henry .....	1
San Francisco—Board of Supervisors.....	3
San Francisco—Tax Collector.....	1
Singer Sewing Machine Co.....	1
Southern Pacific Co., S. F. ....	43
Spiers, James .....	12
Swank, James M.....	1
Taussig, Hugo A.....	1
Technical Society of the Pacific.....	13
Towle Mfg. Co., Newburyport, Mass.....	1
United States—Bureau of American Ethnology .....	4
United States—Bureau of Education.....	3
United States—Bureau of Labor.....	2
United States—Bureau of Statistics.....	1
United States—Coast and Geodetic Survey..	1
United States—Geological Survey.....	5
United States—Interstate Commerce Commission .....	1
United States—Library of Congress.....	2
United States—Life Saving Service.....	1
United States—National Ass'n of Railway Commissioners .....	1
United States—National Museum.....	2
United States—Nautical Almanac Office.....	9
United States—Naval War Records Office..	1

## GIFTS—(Continued).

Donors.	No. of Vols.
United States—Smithsonian Institution.....	3
United States—Supt. of Documents.....	81
United States—Treasury Department.....	5
United States—War Department.....	1
University of California—Library.....	1
University of Maryland .....	1
University of Minnesota.....	3
Vincent, Miss .....	3
Western Railway Club.....	1
Young, Mrs. Janet.....	1
Young Men's Christian Associations of N. A.....	1

Associations and individuals who have made donations other than bound volumes.

## Donors.

American Radiator Co.....	6 pamphlets.
American Railway Bridge and Bldg. Ass'n.....	15 "
Anti-Jap Laundry League .....	6 "
Association of Life Insurance Presidents....	8 "
Beasley, Thos. D. ....	2 "
Booth, J. P. ....	1 "
Boston Port and Seaman's Aid Society..	1 "
California—State Library .....	16 "
California—State Mineralogist .....	2 " , 3 maps.
California Academy of Sciences .....	1 serial.
California Society Sons of Amer. Revolution.	1 pamphlet.
California State Board of Trade.....	1 "
Canada—Geological Survey .....	4 "
Canadian Society of Civil Engineers .....	3 serials.
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.....	1 pamphlet.
Carnegie Institute .....	1 "
Chapman, Louis B. ....	1 "
Colorado College .....	2 "
Commonwealth Club of Cal. ....	9 serials.
Electrochemical and Metallurgical Industry, N. Y. ....	1 pamphlet.
Fairmont Park Ass'n .....	1 "
Fish, Ferdinand .....	3 "
General Society of Mechanics and Trades- men, City of N. Y. ....	1 "
Graves, F. B. ....	3 "
Grunsky, C. E. ....	1 "
Hebrew Technical Institute.....	2 "
Hungerford, A. N. ....	1 "
Indian Rights Ass'n.....	1 "
Lagunitas Water Co. ....	1 "
Leggett, Jos. Magazine subscription.	

## Donors.

Leland Stanford Jr. University .....	2 pamphlets.
Mayerhofer, Walter .....	5 "
Merchants' Ass'n. of New York .....	2 "
National Municipal League .....	4 "
Noyes, Wm. M. ....	1 "
Oberlin College .....	1 "
Pacific Banker. (Portland Ore.) Mag. Subscr.	
Pennsylvania Prison Society .....	1 "
Rogers, Mrs. M. E. ....	1 "
Root, Henry .....	2 "
St. Charles' College .....	1 "
San Francisco—Board of Supervisors .....	2 "
School of Industrial Art .....	1 "
Smithsonian Institution .....	24 serials.
Society of California Pioneers .....	1 pamphlet.
Spiers, James .....	31 serials.
Spring Valley Water Co. ....	1 pamphlet.
Taffinder, Mrs. A. H., Magazine subscription.	
Towle Mfg. Co. ....	3 "
U. S.—Attorney General's office .....	3 "
U. S.—Bureau of Education .....	1 "
U. S.—Geological Survey .....	19 "
U. S.—Nautical Almanac Office .....	1 "
University of California .....	2 "
University of Chicago .....	2 "
University of Illinois .....	1 "
University of Minnesota .....	5 "
University of Missouri .....	1 "
Von Geldern, Otto .....	1 "
Wagoner, Luther .....	1 "
Weaver, W. D., unbound magazines.	
Western Motor Car. (Seattle) Mag. subscr.	

## LIBRARIES SENDING REPORTS OR BULLETINS

Birmingham (Eng.) Free Libraries Committee	
Carnegie Public Library	Bradford, Pa.
Cincinnati Public Library	Cincinnati, O.
City Library Ass'n of Springfield	Springfield, Mass.
Cleveland Public Library	Cleveland, O.
Detroit Public Library	Detroit, Mich.
Enoch Pratt Free Library	Baltimore, Md.
Grand Rapids Public Library	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Harvard University Library	Cambridge, Mass.
Haverhill Public Library	Haverhill, Mass.
Iowa Masonic Library	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
John Crerar Library	Chicago
Library Company of Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Los Angeles Public Library	Los Angeles
Louisville Free Public Library	Louisville, Ky.
Mercantile Library of New York	New York
Minneapolis Public Library	Minneapolis

New York Public Library	New York
Newton Free Library	Newton, Mass.
Oakland Free Library	Oakland
Pasadena Public Library	Pasadena, Cal.
Paterson Free Public Library	Paterson, N. J.
Pratt Institute Free Library	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Providence Public Library	Providence, R. I.
St. Louis Mercantile Library	St. Louis, Mo.
St. Louis Public Library	St. Louis, Mo.
Syracuse Public Library	Syracuse, N. Y.
Toledo Public Library	Toledo, O.
University of California	Berkeley
Worcester Free Public Library	Worcester, Mass.